

Macbeth + by William Shakespeare



Assessment Objectives

AO1: Critical Understanding

Definition: Demonstrate a critical and personal response to the text. Use textual evidence to support interpretations.

How it Applies to *Macbeth*

Develop insightful arguments about themes (e.g., ambition, guilt, fate). Analyse Macbeth's character development and relationships (e.g., with Lady Macbeth).

Use relevant quotations to justify your points.

AO2: Analysis of Language, Form, and Structure

Definition: Analyse how Shakespeare uses language, structure, and form to create meaning and achieve effects.

How it Applies to *Macbeth*

Examine Shakespeare's use of dramatic techniques, such as soliloquies and asides. Discuss the impact of imagery (e.g., blood, darkness, nature) and symbolism (e.g., the dagger, Banquo's ghost).

Explore the structure of the play, including the rise and fall of Macbeth and the cyclical nature of violence.

AO3: Contextual Understanding

Definition: Show understanding of the relationship between the text and its context.

How it Applies to *Macbeth*

Reference the beliefs of Shakespeare's time, such as the Divine Right of Kings and the Great Chain of Being. Discuss the role of the supernatural in the 17th century (e.g., belief in witches and the devil).

Consider gender roles and expectations in Jacobean society (e.g., Lady Macbeth's rejection of femininity).

Relate themes of kingship and tyranny to King James I, Shakespeare's patron.

AO4: Accuracy in Spelling, Punctuation, and Grammar (SPaG)

Definition: Use a range of vocabulary, accurate grammar, and clear expression in writing.

How it Applies to *Macbeth*

Write essays that are clearly structured with accurate spelling and punctuation. Use subject-specific vocabulary (e.g., soliloquy, hubris, equivocation) effectively. Ensure fluency and coherence in your analysis.

Shakespeare's Big Ideas

Ambition

Big Idea: Ambition is a powerful force that can drive people to greatness, but unchecked ambition leads to destruction.

Examples:

- Macbeth's vaulting ambition drives him to murder Duncan despite his initial hesitation.
- Lady Macbeth manipulates Macbeth by questioning his masculinity to spur his ambition.
- The consequences of ambition are seen in Macbeth's downfall and Lady Macbeth's descent into madness.

Power and Corruption

Big Idea: The quest for power can corrupt individuals and destabilize society.

Examples:

- Macbeth and Lady Macbeth's moral corruption after gaining power.
- Duncan is portrayed as a just king, highlighting Macbeth's tyranny.
- The destructive nature of Macbeth's rule causes chaos in Scotland.

Guilt and Conscience

Big Idea: Guilt and conscience have the power to destroy individuals emotionally and mentally.

Examples:

- Macbeth's visions, such as the dagger and Banquo's ghost, show his guilty conscience.
- Lady Macbeth's guilt manifests in her sleepwalking and obsessive handwashing.
- Both characters are ultimately undone by their inability to cope with guilt.

Key Quotations

Macbeth

Ambition and Power

- "I have no spur to prick the sides of my intent, but only / Vaulting ambition which o'erleaps itself." (Act 1, Scene 7)
- "Is this a dagger which I see before me, / The handle toward my hand?" (Act 2, Scene 1)
- "Stars, hide your fires; / Let not light see my black and deep desires." (Act 1, Scene 4)
- "I am in blood / Stepped in so far that, should I wade no more, / Returning were as tedious as go o'er." (Act 3, Scene 1)

Guilt and Paranoia

- "Will all great Neptune's ocean wash this blood / Clean from my hand?" (Act 2, Scene 2)
- "O, full of scorpions is my mind, dear wife!" (Act 3, Scene 2)
- "Methought I heard a voice cry, 'Sleep no more! / Macbeth does murder sleep.'" (Act 2, Scene 2)

Lady Macbeth

Ambition and Manipulation

- "Look like th' innocent flower, / But be the serpent under't." (Act 1, Scene 5)
- "When you durst do it, then you were a man." (Act 1, Scene 7)
- "Come, you spirits / That tend on mortal thoughts, unsex me here." (Act 1, Scene 5)

Guilt and Madness

- "Out, damned spot! Out, I say!" (Act 5, Scene 1)
- "All the perfumes of Arabia will not sweeten this little hand." (Act 5, Scene 1)
- "What's done cannot be undone." (Act 5, Scene 1)

The Witches

Supernatural and Fate

- "Fair is foul, and foul is fair." (Act 1, Scene 1)
- "All hail, Macbeth! Hail to thee, Thane of Glamis! / All hail, Macbeth! Hail to thee, Thane of Cawdor! / All hail, Macbeth, that shalt be king hereafter!" (Act 1, Scene 3)
- "By the pricking of my thumbs, / Something wicked this way comes." (Act 4, Scene 1)

Key Vocabulary +

Ominous: Suggesting that something bad will happen.

Catharsis: Emotional release felt by the audience at the end of a tragedy.

Equivocation: Deliberately ambiguous language used to deceive (e.g., the witches' prophecies).

Paradox: A statement that contradicts itself but may reveal a truth (e.g., "Fair is foul, and foul is fair").

Contrition: Sincere remorse for wrongdoing.

Usurp: To take power or position unlawfully (e.g., Macbeth usurps Duncan's throne).

Penitence: Feeling sorrow or regret for sin.

